

Rachel Blaney Visit to Texada, Thursday, October 11, 2018

- 12:15 pm ferry from Powell River lands in Blubber Bay at 12:50 pm
- I will pick you up at the Blubber Bay Ferry Terminal, Rachel and Drewen, in my car.

Texada Businesses, Museums & Photo Op Tour from 1 – 4 pm

There are many new businesses and museums on Texada. Cindy Babyn, President of the Chamber will accompany you on a tour of some of the new businesses and museums in Van Anda and Gillies Bay. She will guide you to the locations outlined in the program below, and will accompany you to a

Community Forum at the Legion from 4:30 pm to 6 pm. You will then receive dinner to go, and board the 6:50 pm ferry from Blubber Bay, landing in Powell River at 7:25 pm so that you can take the 8:35 ferry from PR to Comox.



Cindy Babyn
 Cell: 604-344-0428

1 – 1:10 pm That Place Café and Curiosities

Sharlene Patterson and Dan Cheshire, owners, opened That Place Café in December 2017 at the Blubber Bay ferry terminal line-up area. The Café is open Monday to Friday 5:30 am – noon and Sunday 8 am - 2 pm. The community is grateful to finally have a place to stop in for coffee, tea, breakfast and lunch before hopping onto the ferry. The business has just started serving Sunday brunches, buffet-style.

1:25 – 1:35 pm Mary Mary Café

George and Gerry Childress opened the Mary Mary Café in Van Anda in 2017. The Café is open 7 days-a-week from 8 am – 3 pm, serving coffee, all-day breakfast, burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs, and desserts. They host special monthly ‘Dinner & a Band’ events, giving touring artists a place to play to an eager Texada audience.

1:40 – 1:50 pm Texada Elementary School

Rock wall

1:50 – 2:05 pm Texada Island Museum and Archives

The new *Little Billie Mine Exhibit*, unveiled on Canada Day in 2017, adds to the Museum’s heritage exhibits including *Texada Mining History & Rock* displays, *Jack Leslie Model Ship Collection*, *Surveyor’s Blacksmith Shop*, and *Don’s Saw Shop* displays, *Captain Vancouver’s Route around Vancouver Island*, and the Van Anda Archives. 2017 was a ‘record year’, with over 1,000 visits to the Museum. Curator Doug Paton will show us the *Little Billie Mine* exhibit. 2018 figures are looking positive as well.

texadaheritagesociety.com

2:05 – 2:15 pm Texada Food Hub

The Texada Food Hub is a community commercial kitchen located at the Texada Elementary School. This is a “food preservation” kitchen, with equipment for dehydrating, freezing, canning and fermenting. It is available to individuals, businesses and School District 47 students from throughout the qathet region. For more information contact Tom Read, Kitchen Coordinator, at 604 483-1471. The Texada Food Hub is a food security initiative of the community non-profit Texada Agriculture Group.

2:20 – 2:30 pm Texada Island Boat Yard

Alan Davis and his wife Wendy Davis are developing a large waterfront property in Van Anda. The Texada Island Boat Yard rents land to boaters to haul out, wash, and complete DIY boat repairs, and store their boats. A new boat ramp is completed and dock infrastructure with moorage is under construction. Texadaboatyard.com

2:30 – 2:35 pm Davis Custom Laser (meeting at Boat Yard), operated by Wendy Davis, is a new division of Davis Ventures Ltd. Combined with computer design, unique products are made from laser engraved and cut components. Wendy is working on a series of wooden keepsake boxes, featuring intricate laser cut and engraved designs. Past work includes pet monuments with photo engraving on slate tile; badges and stamps; engraved stainless steel travel tumblers. To personalize their paddles, the Texada Dragon Boat Club had their paddles engraved with their spirit animals and motivational phrases.

facebook.com/DavisCustomLaser

2:40 – 2:50 pm Texada Island Inn

The Texada Island Inn has completed massive renovations following the fire in 2015. New owners Cymry and Evan Morris opened the bar in December 2017. The restaurant opened in January 2018. Room rentals will open at a later date. Cymry will show you the bar and restaurant. The Texada Island Inn was selected to host our Texada Island Chamber of Commerce Dinner Forums this year – very nice to host business events in a local business. texadaislandinn.com

(Drive from Van Anda to the Gillies Bay Airport)

3:05 – 3:20 pm The new **Texada Aviation Museum** continues to receive acquisitions and, with the help of the Canada 150 grant, TAM has upgraded its displays. Located in Hangar 8 at the Gillies Bay Airport, the Museum contains advanced flight simulators for youth and adults, a wind tunnel, an aviation library, aerospace displays, model aircraft displays, old aircraft components, a Ham radioshack, and more. It is the location of the summer Texada AeroSpace Camp.

3:35 – 3:45 pm Gallery on Dogwood

Gallery on Dogwood is a new art gallery in Gillies Bay, opened in August 2017 by Doby Dobrostanski. This artist-run Gallery sells work by 10 Texada artists in fused glass, fibre art, jewelry, photography, pottery, wildlife sculptures, paintings and prints. Hours are Thurs-Sun 11 am-4pm in the summer, Sat & Sun 11 am-4 pm in other seasons, and at all other times by appointment by calling Doby at 604-223-2588. goDogwood.com

(3:45 – 4 pm: Travel from Gillies Bay to the Legion in Van Anda)

4:10 – 4:20 pm Texada Military Memorabilia Museum at the Legion

Display of Armed Forces and RCMP uniforms, equipment, books & curiosities. This Museum is open from Wednesdays – Sundays from 4 pm – 7 pm.

4:30 pm – 6 pm Community Forum with Rachel Blaney at the Legion

4:30 pm, Cindy Babyn, President, Texada Island Chamber of Commerce, Welcoming Remarks & speaker introduction

4:35 pm – 6 pm, Rachel Blaney, plus Q&A. Podium & microphone are available. The space is small so the microphone does not tend to be used.

6 pm – Receive dinner to go from **The Real Deal** to eat at the Legion or to take in your car. The Real Deal opened by John & Shelly Moberg in 2017, and offers home-made hamburgers, chicken breast or thigh burgers made from scratch, hand-cut fries, homemade soups like borscht, beef barley, chicken noodle, gravies, and more. They deliver to many island locations including Van Anda, Gillies Bay and Shelter Point. 604-578-8089

6:50 pm ferry from Texada to Powell River. It lands at 7:25 pm. Your Comox ferry leaves at 8:45 pm

Future Visits! We Hope You Can Make it! A bit more of what's new

Harmony in the Round

Located just beside the Texada Boating Club, Bob and Maggie Timms have installed a new 24-foot yurt where they host various arts events, meditation & holistic health activities year-round. The washroom facility has a pay-shower option for the approximately 1,500 boaters that moor at the Club dock throughout the year. This is part of the Texada Vacation Rental property, which sleeps 6 or more.

K-Lumet: An environmentally-friendly kindling product made out of waste materials, is ideal for woodstoves or camp fires. 3 or 16 bundles to a small, easy-to-carry box. K-Lumet bundles burn for 15 minutes to get the fire started. The product is made exclusively by people with disabilities and raises money for them. K-Lumet is headquartered in Switzerland. Gillies Bay resident Barbarah Kisschowski has the only franchise licenses in BC to date, for Texada and Powell River. 604-486-6904 k-lumet.ca

SELECT TEXADA ISSUES

BC Ferries: *While ferry management is a provincial issue, Atlantic Canada's ferry passengers get 350 times the federal subsidies that ferry passengers in BC receive (source). These are our highways. Please continue to fight to make federal investments more equitable for British Columbians.*

The Chamber lobbied for service from Texada to Comox. Texada was successful in obtaining a 2-year pilot to have a morning ferry from Texada to Comox on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with a return trip in the evening. This starts in April 2019, using the Salish Orca (Powell River/Comox ferry). This route will help our seniors get to Comox for their medical appointments within 1 hour (rather than about 4+ hours each way). It will help some Texada businesses get supplies in Comox that are unavailable in Powell River. Because we were not successful in getting the return run from Comox to Texada on Wednesdays and Saturday mornings, our tourism market remains limited (we won't be able to offer day trips between Vancouver Island and Texada). Companies like Finning, servicing the Lafarge quarry still have to go the long-way round through Powell River to get here. This aspect remains an unfulfilled wish that limits our economic development and diversification potential. We could perhaps market at Saturday night to Wednesday morning or Wednesday night to Saturday morning tourism package ideas to build a Comox to Texada tourism market.

No Seniors Residence on Texada

Texada is nearly tied with Sidney, BC for the 4th-oldest community in Canada, per capita. If people can't live in their homes until the end, they age-off of the island when greater support is required. Texadans have serious concern about this, for their friends, family, and for themselves. Texada Aging Population Initiative (TAPI) is a community group exploring options to establish a senior's residence on Texada. There are issues with acquiring land and paying for it but TAPI is advancing well in its consultations and planning. They are researching what grants are available and are considering whether to establish as a non-profit or charitable organization. TAPI would like to meet with you about this in the coming months.



Softwood Lumber Duties

Texada has a well-managed forestry industry. The “Trump” tariff is of concern to Texada.

No Public Ground Transportation on Texada

Texada has no public transportation or corporate (e.g., taxi service) transportation on Texada. (There is a BC Transit bus that takes residents to Powell River on Thurs mornings.) The Texada Boating Club receives over 1,500 boats mooring on our shore in Van Anda. Once they land, boaters are limited to walking around Van Anda. Last summer, over 8,500 people visited Shelter Point Regional Park. Once people install their camping set-up, few want to drive around. It would be great if we had a vehicle and drivers to connect visitors with our businesses and cultural activities. Some of our drivers are aging, and some residents don’t own vehicles. The Chamber is exploring options to improve this aspect of island-living.

About the Texada Island Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1964, the Chamber has taken on many projects over the years and has been an important gathering place to hear the latest updates about what’s happening on the island.

2017-2018 Texada Chamber Activities

- A new [Texada Visitors Guide \(print + online\)](#), launched by summer tourist season 2018, was created to promote businesses, solo entrepreneurs, festivals, hiking, hunting services, etc. to help visitors better connect with goods and services during their stay. 1,000 copies were distributed on the island, in Powell River, and in Comox at the Vancouver Island Visitor Centre.
- In Spring 2018 the **Texada Chamber Awards** were launched to publicly celebrate local businesses. 350 votes were received, which is high in relation to a population of less than 1,100 residents.
- [Economic Development Action Plan](#) (EDAP): With the help of a BC Rural Dividend Fund grant, the Chamber completed a 2018 EDAP plan, which identifies actions that can be taken to improve money flows, tourist and resident attraction, and more.
- Presentation at the BC Ferries Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee, and letters written from the Chamber to BC Ferries to request better ferry service to Comox.
- Speakers such as MPP Nicholas Simons (Mar 2018), MP Rachel Blaney (Oct 2018), the new Lafarge General Manager Tim Knoop, Faren Wolfe (cannabis legalization), and business “hotspot” presentations by the Texada Island Inn, Real Deal, That Place Café, Texada Island Boat Yard, Felt Forest Studio, Qmata Technologies, and more.
- The Chamber has begun discussions about ground transportation and hopes to work with the community, businesses, and local government to find a way to activate service on the island.
- BC Elections: Organized an All-Candidates Forums broadcast for the community, in partnership with the Powell River Chamber of Commerce
- Launched a [Texada Chamber Facebook page](#) (@Texadachamber)
- Launched a website: texadachamber.com
- Developed a logo and made business cards for board members